

# Calgary Citizens on Climate Change presentation to Coal Policy Committee on July 27, 2021

Acknowledging Treaty 7 lands, the traditional territory of the Nitsatapi, Tsuu T'ina and Stoney Nakoda Nations, and part of Metis Region 3



Photo: Travel Alberta

## The Case for an Eastern Slopes Coal Moratorium

Calgary Citizens on Climate Change (4C)



### Summary of our three key points:

- 1. Climate Impacts**
  - a. Scientists are clearly warning us of the dangerous effects of climate change on the weather in Alberta, which impacts our quality of life and health
  - b. An updated Coal Policy must include climate impacts as its #1 priority
- 2. Water Management**
  - a. There is already scientific evidence, and resulting fines, of how open pit coal mines have polluted downstream watersheds and ecosystems in British Columbia
  - b. Water scarcity is already being experienced in southern Alberta and over-allocation of this most precious resource must not be allowed to occur
- 3. Spiritual Place**
  - a. Traditional indigenous cultures in Alberta have emphasized the intrinsic and aesthetic value of the eastern slopes, aside from any proposed economic value
  - b. It is scientifically proven that time spent amongst the untouched beauty of mountains, forests, lakes and rivers provides both physical and mental health benefits to all visitors

### Conclusions:

1. Short term: Benefits proposed of any new open pit coal mines do not outweigh the associated costs/risks e.g. Joint Review Panel ruling for the Benga Mining / Grassy Mountain Project
2. Long term: Stewardship of the eastern slopes for seven future generations, linked to indigenous principles, must be our guiding principle.

### Recommendations:

1. The Committee report should include input from:
  - a. a climatologist and
  - b. a water impact specialist
2. A moratorium on all coal mine exploration and development activities should be implemented immediately.